

## **SCHOOL DISTRICT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION**

Minutes of Meeting  
Monday, August 28, 2006  
ASU Decision Theater

Marty Shultz called the meeting to order at 2:15 p.m. and attendance was noted by the secretary.

### **Members Present**

Martin Schultz  
Doris Goodale  
Dr. Sandra Dowling  
Michael Hunter  
Rita Leyva  
Dave Naugle  
George Martinez  
Thomas Schoaf  
Jay Blanchard  
Art Harding

### **Members Absent**

Kent Scribner  
Joseph Thomas  
Vicki Anderson

### **Speakers Present**

### **INTRODUCTIONS AND REMARKS:**

Chairman Shultz welcomed the Commission and the public who were gathered in two rooms. The room provided for the public had the same data displayed as the Decision Theater plus they had an audio and visual feed of the proceedings. He invited anyone who wished to address the Commission to do so in the Decision Theater. He said that the new data presented at this meeting will be updated on the School District Redistricting Commission (SDRC) website. He handed out a letter written in 2003 asking that his be posted to the SDRC website. (attachment #1) He also distributed copies of the letter sent to the Maricopa County Superintendents soliciting their input. (attachment #2)

Commissioner Naugle said that talking to educators has raised questions regarding school facilities and the policies of the School Facilities Board (SFB). He also believes there is a need for legislative changes.

Chairman Shultz said that Senator Gray has been apprised of the possible need for “tweaking.” The Task Force still needs to talk to the SFB director.

Deirdre Hahn asked the members to look through the maps in the book. Chairman Shultz said the maps in the book were just examples of the Commission getting used to working with the maps and they are not something that the Commission has embraced.

Commissioner Blanchard said that they had not yet been able to get building level data.

#### Cochise County

The members discussed whether they were to address accommodation districts such as Ft. Huachuca. Dave said he has found three such districts and they all have different purposes. Chairman Shultz said the Commission may need legal advice to decide if accommodation districts are within the charge of the Commission.

Right now the Commission is using Alpha and Beta for proposed district names. A naming convention will need to be established.

The members discussed the problems associated with transporting districts. This may be an area where the law may need to be changed, allowing an elementary school to be voted into a unified district.

The Commissioners discussed La Paz County. Commissioner Blanchard said that currently Parker is the existing unified district. Bouse could go with Parker if the elementary school could join the unified district.

Commissioner Hunter said there may be a problem with student counts not showing up because of open enrollment. Commissioner Harding says we may not be able to identify students attending under open enrollment.

The Commissioners discussed Mohave County. Only contiguous districts are being considered for unification at this time. Questions of distance are a big concern.

There are complexities of students possibly being under open enrollment, possibly being tuitioned into a school and counted as high school students or the elementary district pays for the students and counts them as theirs.

The Commissioners discussed Pima County. Commissioner Naugle said that Flowing Wells has tremendous growth and probably needs its own district. They will probably need a high school soon.

Chairman Shultz said that he was working with a couple of economists who will help estimate growth projections for the Commission. Gretchen Kitchell said that they have contacted the SFB and acquired all their data regarding growth projections, but they only do this for districts they have been required to look at.

Commissioner Naugle said that J.O. Coombs is going to the November election to unify. Eloy and Casa Grande would not want to unify. Ranches have been sold to developers and will be growing. The recommendation is for eight unified districts.

Commissioner Naugle had no recommendations on Sacaton. Because they have schools that are run by different types of entities including federal BIA, churches and accommodation districts, there may be jurisdiction problems there and on other Native American lands. The Commission will have to decide what to do.

Commissioner Naugle said that they have two proposed recommendations for Santa Cruz County. They have met with two of the school boards. The districts can be unified into one district if they could get along. There was a consolidation attempt 20 years ago and it was voted down. There are 300 students and five school boards. This needs to be looked at.

Commissioner Leyva said that in Yavapai county tax rates are outrageous. The voters may approve unification but would not want to bond to build their own high school. Commissioner Shultz said this is something he would like to talk to Senator Gray about.

Commissioner Shultz said the Commission is encouraging districts to talk to each other. If they have good unification ideas they should go ahead and not wait until 2008.

Peoria and Surprise are growing into Yavapai County, but there is no problem unifying across county lines. Right now Prescott Unified is bursting at the seams and SFB says they don't need a new school. One day they will have to say "no" to new students.

Navajo is the perfect county – all unified.

Apache County has all type three districts and are sending their students to different schools that are all small and isolated. It doesn't make sense to unify.

Commissioner Shultz talked about the letter that went out to Maricopa County Superintendents. The Commission has already heard from Alhambra regarding their interest in having their own high schools (attachment #3). Commissioner Shultz let Superintendent Chopra know about this interest.

Commissioner Schoaf said there was correspondence from the Superintendent of Litchfield Elementary regarding their vision of what changes would be best (attachment #4). An email was received from Litchfield Board member Shawn Watt saying the configuration should remain unchanged. (Attachment #5) Commissioner Schoaf said he will try to encourage West Valley superintendents to be more active in the work of the Commission.

Mobile Elementary 86 sent a letter saying they should remain their own district. They think they will grow enough to justify their own high school. (attached #6)

Commissioner Dowling says they have their work cut out for them. She said there is no way to get from Mobile to Gila Bend.

Commissioner Shultz said an elementary district that wants its own district/high school will need to show some evidence of its development prospects. He asked if Tempe has talked about unification. Commissioner Blanchard said we can assume that the current districts feel they are going a great job and don't need our services.

Commissioner Dowling said that the Commission needs to be aware that some districts will want other district's assets but not their liabilities.

Commissioner Shultz said that unified districts perform better than non-unified. Commissioner Martinez said he would like to have that data.

The Commissioners divided up the work of proposing unification options for Maricopa County. They will report at the next meeting on this as well as possible revisions to the other county proposals.

The Commission was invited to attend a Greater Phoenix Educational Management Council on September 18<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Harding asked that any Commissioners that attend should bring back any input. Also, that the Commission can help provide talking points for those Commissioners who present to the public. He said the Commission should keep track of Commissioners presentations through Commissioner Shultz's office.

Commissioner Naugle spoke about the problems with the revenue control limits.

Small schools are at risk for funding problems. It is important to see what it costs to educate students in small rural schools. Commissioner Shultz said the Commission needs to look at specific cases and not generalize. Commissioner Levya said that taking into consideration all the costs, 300 or even 1000 students is a small district. The small school adjustment needs to be considered.

Commissioner Naugle said there has never been a study on the best way to support small schools and one is needed.

There were no public requests to speak to the Commission. The Commissioners decided to adjourn so that they would have time to talk to the public that was in the other room of the Decision Theater.

Without objection the meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Submitted by Marlene Johnston  
Attachments are on file